

REMARKS

Initially, Applicant expresses appreciation to the Examiner for the detailed Official Action provided. Applicant notes that the Examiner indicated, in the Official Action dated August 10, 2007, that the drawings of the present application are accepted. However, Applicant further notes that the Examiner has inadvertently failed to acknowledge, in any Official Action, Applicant's claim for foreign priority and that the certified copy of the priority document has been received. Therefore, the Examiner is requested to acknowledge the claim of priority and to confirm receipt of the priority document in the next official communication.

Additionally, Applicant expresses appreciation to the Examiner for the courtesies extended to Applicant's representatives William Pieprz and James Bonnamy during the telephone interview of April 1, 2009. During the telephone interview, the distinctions between the present application and "The Legend of Zelda: Ocarina of Time IGN Review" (hereinafter "ZELDA REVIEW") were discussed. Specifically, it was discussed and acknowledged by the Examiner that ZELDA REVIEW, based on the Examiner's current understanding thereof, fails to disclose a video game apparatus in which an object is continuously displayed at the center of a display screen independently of input instructions of a player. In this regard, claim language that would be appropriate in overcoming the outstanding rejections of the claims was also discussed.

Upon entry of the present paper, claims 1, 5, 9, and 22-25 will have been amended. The herein-contained amendments should not be considered an indication of Applicant's acquiescence as to the propriety of the outstanding rejection. Rather, Applicant has amended claims 1, 5, 9, and 22-25 only in order to advance prosecution

and obtain early allowance of the claims in the present application. Thus, upon entry of the present paper, claims 1-20 and 22-25 are pending in the present application, with claims 1 and 22-25 being in independent form.

Applicant addresses the rejections provided within the Official Action below and respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections pending in the present application together with an indication of the allowability of claims 1-20 and 22-25 (*i.e.*, all pending claims) in the next Official communication. Such action is respectfully requested and is now believed to be appropriate for at least the reasons provided below.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Claim Rejections

In the outstanding Official Action, claims 1, 6-12, and 22-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 6,821,204 to Aonuma et al. (hereinafter "AONUMA") in view of "E3 2002: Zelda GameCube-to-GBA Link Revealed" (hereinafter "E3 2002") and ZELDA REVIEW. However, Applicant notes that it appears that the Examiner intended to reject claims 1-16 and 22-25 over the above-mentioned combination of references.

Claims 17-18 and 20 were also rejected in the outstanding Official Action under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over AONUMA in view of E3 2002 and ZELDA REVIEW. However, in this regard, Applicant notes that it appears that the Examiner intended to reject claims 17-20 over the above-mentioned combination of references.

With respect to the Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103, Applicant notes that, without acquiescing in the propriety of the rejections, Applicant has amended claims

1, 5, 9, and 22-25 with claims 1 and 22-25 being independent claims. In this regard, Applicant respectfully traverses the outstanding rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Specifically, with respect to amended independent claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that the above-noted combination of references fails to disclose or render obvious at least, in the claimed combination, the recited feature of:

wherein said display controller continuously displays the object and the center of the zone centered around the object at said center of said display screen independently of the input instructions received by said multiple input devices.

To the contrary, on page 4 of the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner acknowledges that AONUMA fails to disclose creating a zone centered around an object (distinct from a player character). Therefore, Applicant submits that AONUMA cannot be reasonably interpreted to disclose the display controller, as recited by independent claim 1, that continuously displays an object and a center of a zone centered around the object at a center of a display screen independently of input instructions. Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submits that E3 2002 is an article which merely describes the disclosure of AONUMA (*i.e.*, a method of connecting a Game Boy Advance to a GameCube for use in a game). Accordingly, Applicant further submits that E3 2002 cannot be reasonably interpreted to disclose or render obvious the display controller as recited by independent claim 1.

With respect to ZELDA REVIEW, ZELDA REVIEW discloses a “Z-Targeting” feature which allows a player to lock the focus of a display screen onto an object that is displayed on the display screen under a fairy character (ZELDA REVIEW, page 1). According to the Examiner and ZELDA REVIEW, when a player wants to focus their attention on the object under the fairy character, the player must hold down a Z-button to

activate the “Z-Targeting” feature. The focus of the display screen is removed from the object when a player releases the Z-button. In other words, the “Z-Targeting” feature is activated and deactivated by an input of a user, *i.e.*, by pressing and depressing a Z-button.

In contradistinction, the display controller of independent claim 1 continuously displays an object (and the zone centered around the object) at a center of a display screen *independently of input instructions* received by input devices. Applicant submits that ZELDA REVIEW fails to disclose or render obvious such a feature. To the contrary, as set forth above, ZELDA REVIEW discloses that the focus of a display is locked-on, and unlocked-off, an object by a player pressing and depressing a Z-button of a controller. In other words, ZELDA REVIEW discloses that the “Z-Targeting” feature is dependent upon input instructions received by an input device. Thus, ZELDA REVIEW cannot be reasonably interpreted to disclose or render obvious a display controller that continuously displays an object (and the zone centered around the object) at a center of a display screen *independently of input instructions* received by input devices.

At least for the reasons set forth above, Applicant submits that AONUMA, E3 2002, and ZELDA REVIEW, whether considered alone or together in any proper combination thereof, fail to disclose or render obvious each and every feature as recited by independent claim 1. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 103 rejection of independent claim 1 in the next official communication and to indicate the allowance of independent claim 1. Additionally, Applicant further submits that independent claims 22-25 of the present application recite a similar combination of features as those set forth in independent claim 1. Accordingly,

Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are also allowable for at least the reasons discussed *supra*.

With respect to the Examiner's rejection of dependent claims 2-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 in view of AONUMA, E3 2002, and ZELDA REVIEW, Applicant submits that these claims are all directly or indirectly dependent from independent claim 1, which is allowable for at least the reasons discussed *supra*. Thus, these dependent claims are submitted to also be allowable for at least the reasons discussed *supra*. Furthermore, all dependent claims recite additional features which further define the present invention over the references of record.

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that each and every pending claim of the present application (*i.e.*, claims 1-20 and 22-25) meets the requirements for patentability. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 103 rejections and to indicate the allowance of each and every pending claim in the present application.

CONCLUSION

In view of the fact that none of the art of record, whether considered alone, or in any proper combination thereof, discloses or renders obvious the present invention as now defined by the pending claims, and in further view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the Examiner's action and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested and are believed to be appropriate.

Applicant notes that this amendment is being made to advance prosecution of the application to allowance, and should not be considered as surrendering equivalents of the territory between the claims prior to the present amendment and the amended claims. Further, no acquiescence as to the propriety of the Examiner's rejection is made by the present amendment. All amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

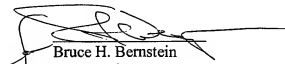
Additionally, Applicant notes that the status of the present application is after final rejection and that once a final rejection has issued, an applicant does not have a right to amend an application. Nevertheless, pursuant to M.P.E.P. §714.13, Applicant contends that entry of the present amendment is appropriate because, as discussed during the telephone interview of April 1, 2009, the proposed amended claims avoid the rejections set forth in the last Official Action, resulting in the application being placed in condition for allowance, or alternatively, the revised claims place the application in better condition for purposes of appeal. Further, also as discussed during the telephone interview of April 1, 2009, the revised claims do not present any new issues that would

require any further consideration or search by the Examiner, and the amendment does not present any additional claims without cancelling a like number of pending claims. Accordingly, entry of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

Should the Commissioner determine that an extension of time is required in order to render this response timely and/or complete, a formal request for an extension of time, under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a), is herewith made in an amount equal to the time period required to render this response timely and/or complete. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any required extension of time fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17 to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

If there should be any questions concerning this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
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